



# The Lincoln Kinsman

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## Nottoway River Hanks Colony

HANKS FAMILIES OF PRINCE GEORGE, AMELIA, AND NOTTOWAY  
COUNTIES, VIRGINIA, IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

When General Grant occupied Nottoway Court House in Virginia on April 5, 1865, at the close of the Civil War, he was in the very community where Lincoln's mother's people had resided for many generations. Much stress has been placed upon the devastation of the Shenandoah Valley where the paternal ancestry of President Lincoln resided, but apparently no attention has been given to the fact that the closing scenes of the Civil War occurred in that part of Virginia where Lincoln's maternal ancestry had established homes.

A book published in 1932 by W. R. Turner entitled *Old Homes and Families in Nottoway* affirms that Nancy Hanks was born at a place now called Bare Bones on the Namozone road between Jennings' Ordinary and Fergusonville. The place is named for Barebone Creek, a secondary branch of Nottoway River, which runs through the community.

While it is not likely that this statement about Nancy's birthplace can be substantiated, it does appear likely that Nancy Hanks' immediate ancestors and possibly her own father lived there.

The family of the Joseph Hanks who migrated to Kentucky and settled in Nelson County has been constantly associated with the President's mother. The oldest son of this Joseph Hanks, as stated in his will, was Joshua Hanks, and his youngest son was Joseph Hanks, Jr. According to his own sworn affidavit, the latter, when a boy but twelve years of age, returned to Virginia immediately after the death of his father, apparently with his mother, the widow Hanks.

Mrs. M. A. Wilson, a granddaughter of this same Joseph Hanks, Jr., sent the following reminiscence to Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock in 1895: "My grandfather, Joseph Hanks, Jr., was the youngest or near

the youngest of the family, was left an orphan at an early age and went to live with an older brother in Virginia, was mistreated by his brother's wife and ran away from Virginia to Kentucky."

J. M. Hanks, another grandchild of Joseph Hanks, Jr., without knowledge of the contents of Mrs. Wilson's letter, communicated this statement to Mrs. Hitchcock: "Grandfather (Joseph Hanks, Jr.) told me that an estate of 660 acres was rightfully his having been unlawfully held by his elder brother, who I think was named Joshua."

C. L. Hanks of Pipers Gap, Virginia, who claimed to be related to the Kentucky branch of the family, wrote to Mrs. Hitchcock in 1895 and said: "My grandfather, Joshua Hanks, Sr., was born in Amelia County, Virginia, in the year 1760 . . . I believe that Joseph Hanks who moved to Nelson County, Kentucky, was a brother or uncle of Joshua, Sr. Joshua Hanks, Sr. had one or two brothers who moved to Kentucky."

One single letter of the alphabet has caused much confusion in an approach to the study of Lincoln's maternal ancestry in Virginia. The primitive method of writing the letter "n" often made it appear like a "w". This is especially true in Amelia County where the proper name Hanks was often represented as Hawks.

A member of a Kentucky Hanks family associated with Lincoln's mother is reported to have said that Lincoln's mother's name was "Hawks and not Hanks and that the name had changed after they came to Kentucky." On the other hand if one

makes a careful study of the signatures in the records of Amelia County, Virginia, he is more apt to conclude that the original name was Hanks and that some branches of the family who remained there later adopted the spelling Hawks. After giving detailed study to the problem, we are very certain that all of the families living in Amelia County who spelled their names Hanks or Hawks or variations of these spellings, were one and the same family without any exception.

While it seems almost certain that the forebears of Nancy Hanks lived in the Nottoway River country at one time, some of them may have comprised a group of the Rappahannock River Hanks colony before settling in the Nottoway River community. There is also evidence that some members of the branch from which Lincoln's mother descended moved on to the Roanoke River country before finally leaving for Kentucky.

The establishment of new counties within the boundaries of old counties has caused the genealogist endless despair. While a family might have resided on the same piece of land, their home site is often noted as being located in two or three different counties. For instance the tracts of land on Nottoway River occupied by members of the Hanks family were originally located in Prince George County. By 1735 they were in Amelia County, and after 1789 in Nottoway County. In order to make a documentary search for information about the Hanks families in the Nottoway River country, it was necessary to visit all three of the counties mentioned above. A compilation of condensed court docu-

ments referring to these families and some of their associates is submitted. The name Hanks is adopted for the spelling of all the various versions which appear in the documents.

# **PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY**

**Formed out of Charles City  
County in 1703**

*Virginia Patents (Richmond)*

Bolling, Robert . . . 1773 acres on  
Nottoway River.  
1706, May 1

Jones, Abraham . . . 141 acres on  
north side of Nottoway River.  
1718, July 11

Bolling, Stith . . . 1340 acres on  
both sides of Buckskin Creek.  
1722, June 22.

Bolling, John. . . 2353 acres on Flat  
Creek, upper and lower Horsepen  
Branch.  
1725, March

Lee, Matthew. . . 148 acres War-  
wick swamp joining Thomas Mit-  
chell's line.  
1725, August 17

Hinton, Christopher. . . 321 acres  
on Kitts Horsepen Branch. . . lower  
Seller Fork on Deep Creek.  
1730, September

Hanks, Joshua. . . 172 acres. . .  
Prince George County on ridge be-  
tween Hatchers and Gravelly Run on  
both sides of the Upper Nottoway  
River Road. . . Beginning near a  
branch near Bly's line.  
1733, December 3 No. 15, p. 133

Jones, Abraham. . . 1984 acres on  
both sides of Sweathouse Creek.

Prewit, Thomas. . . 200 acres on  
Stocks Creek.  
1736, March

Hanks, Jeffrey . . . 200 acres. . .  
County of Prince George on the  
south side of Hatchers Run. . . Be-  
gin near mouth of Ellis Branch. . .  
David McCollis' back line. . . Mc-  
Collis' corner. . . McCollis' upper  
line to Hatchers Run. . . up Hat-  
chers Run to the beginning.  
1741, July 6 No. 19, p. 1027

## *Deed Books*

Hanks, Jeffrey from Henry Talley  
. . . 144 acres leased in Bristol Par-  
ish. . . John Ellis line. . . Wolf Pit  
Meadow Branch. . . Witnesses: Rob-  
ert Bolling, Joshua Woodly.  
1715, October 2 No. 1, p. 74

Hinton, Christopher from Henry  
Talley 350 acres leased on west side  
of Otter Dam. . . William Jones  
line. . . Witnesses: Robert Bolling,  
John Talley, John Mason.  
1716, February 11 No. 1, p. 142

Sparrow, Thomas Wright from  
George Blighton and Lydia Clements.  
1721, February 12 No. 1, p. 582

Mitchell, Robert to Stith Bolling.  
1723, October 7 No. 1, p. 688

Sparrow, Thomas Wright to Robert  
Hall. . . 100 acres leased. . .  
Place called the Ponds in Parish of  
Martin Brandon. . . Indian Spring  
Branch corner of Fletcher.  
1727, October 24 No. 1, p. 1047

## *Minute Book*

Joseph Hanks is dr. to William  
Fraughton to judgment for 9 pounds,

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### SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN FORMER ISSUES OF THE LINCOLN KINSMAN

1. The Colonial Lincolns, 2. The Unknown Hanks Ancestry, 3. The Herrings of Virginia, 4. Five Shipley Sisters, 5. The Todd Family, 6. Bush Family Documents, 7. Early 19th Century Lincolns, 8. Kentucky Archives, 9. Abraham Lincoln's Father, 10. Hon. Robert Todd Lincoln, 11. James Wright Sparrow, 12. Uncle Mordecai Lincoln, 13. Thomas (Tad) Lincoln, 14. The Tennessee Lincolns, 15. The Lincolns of Hingham, 16. The Richard Berry Family, 17. Southern Branch of the Hankses, 18. The Lincolns of England, 19. Synopsis Life of Lincoln, 20. Lincoln's Letters to His Wife, 21. Correspondence With Kinsmen, 22. A Hanks Family Tree, 23. New Jersey Lincolns, 24. The Pennsylvania Lincolns.

1 shilling, and 9½ pence. On the order for the appraisal of the estate of Joseph Hanks attached for William Fraughton the sheriff made the above report which is truly received.

1719, April 14 P. W. Hamlin

Joshua Hanks acknowledges his deed of lease and the lease of land indentured, and sale to William King on whose motion is ordered the said deed be recorded and then Angelico the wife of said Joshua came into court and being first privately examined as the law directs freely and voluntarily relinquishes to the said William King her rights of dower in the said land in the said deed mentioned which is likewise ordered to be recorded.

1738, August 8

## AMELIA COUNTY

Formed out of Prince George  
County in 1735

*Virginia Patents (Richmond)*

Hanks, Joseph. . . . 290 acres in Amelia County. . . . lower side Kitts Horsepen. . . . Branch of Seller Fork of Deep Creek. . . . Beginning at Christopher Hinton's line. . . . to Charles Williamson's line. . . . to Kitts Horsepen Branch. . . . to beginning.

1738, August 18 No. 16, p. 178

Hanks, Abraham. . . . 284 acres in the County of Amelia. . . . lower side of the lower fork of Seller Creek. . . . Christopher Hinton's corner. . . . Joseph Hanks' line. . . . Hinton's corner.

1747, January 12 No. 28, p. 322

### Deed Books

Tucker, William to William Gallimore. . . . 400 acres in Amelia. . . . between Sweathouse and Seller Creeks. . . . Begin Charles Clay corner. . . . Abraham Jones' line. . . . Abraham Hanks' line. . . . Joseph Hanks' line. . . . Richard Jones' corner. . . . Witnesses: John Clay, Henry Jones, William Jones, William Tucker.

1748, March No. 3, p. 219

Hanks, Joseph. . . . 246 acres in County of Amelia, upper side of Sweathouse Creek. . . . Begin at Wm. Tucker's corner in Abraham Hanks' line. . . . Tucker's line to Abraham Jones' line. . . . along Mumford's line. . . . to William Tucker's corner to Hinton's corner. . . . along Abraham Hanks' line.

1750, July 12 No. 29, p. 51

Hanks, Richard of Nottoway Parish, Amelia County, from William Sam-

mon of Nottoway Parish, Amelia County. . . . consideration 30 pounds . . . . 243 acres. . . . Beginning at John Hightower's line. . . . Hightower's corner. . . . Witnesses: Chas. Williams, Robert Mason, John Hightower. Signed, William Sammon.  
1754, June 27 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 7, p. 313

Hinton, Christopher to David Greenhill. . . . Land in Parish of Rawley, County of Amelia. . . . on Horsepen Branch near Jones' Mill.  
1755 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 5, p. 346

Tucker to Haskins. . . . Land in Amelia, Dennis corner. . . . Witness: Thomas Friend.  
1763 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 8, p. 196

Hanks, James of Amelia County from William Griggs and James Griggs of Amelia County. . . . consideration 60 pounds. . . . 100 acres in Amelia on east side of Irby's Road. . . . Begin at Hutchin's corner. . . . Ford's line. . . . Bland's line. . . . Tucker's line. . . . Clark's line to beginning. Witnesses: Mark Moore, Edward (x) Wright, Frances (x) Wright. Signed: William Griggs, James Griggs.  
1763, April 26 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 8, p. 335

Jones, William, Jr. to Peter Jones, Jr. . . . Land in Amelia. . . . Joining lines of Joshua Hanks, George Cousin, Peter Jones. . . . Begin at Falls of Sweathouse Creek.  
1764, June 5 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 8, p. 450

Hanks, Abraham and Lucy, his wife, of Rawley Parish, Amelia County, to David Greenhill of the same parish. . . . consideration 71 pounds. . . . 284 acres in Rawley Parish, Amelia County. . . . lower fork of Seller Creek. . . . Beginning at Christopher Hinton's corner. . . . Joseph

Hanks' line. . . . Hinton's corner. . . . It being the land granted the said Abraham Hanks by patent bearing the date Jan. 12, 1747. . . . Witnesses: William Lawson, Nelson Jones, Thomas Wilkerson. Signed: Abraham (x) Hanks, Lucy (x) Hanks.  
1767, January 19 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 9, p. 174

Hanks, James of Nottoway Parish, Amelia County, from John Appline and his wife Martha of Nottoway Parish, Amelia County. . . . consideration 66 pounds. . . . 100 acres on south side of Barebone Creek. . . . Beginning Marshall's line. . . . Stuart's line. . . . Worsham's line. . . . Signed: John Applin, Martha (x) Applin.  
1768, June 23 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 9, p. 357

Hanks, James and Nancy his wife of the County of Amelia to Thomas Mitchell of Dinwiddie County. . . . consideration 65 pounds. . . . 200 acres. . . . County of Amelia. . . . east side of Irby's road. . . . Begin Hutchin's corner. . . . Ford's line. . . . Bland's line. . . . Tucker's line. . . . Clark's line. . . . Wynn's line as the road runs to the beginning. . . . Witnesses: Edward (x) Wright, Mary Wright, Josiah Griggs. Signed: James Hanks, Nancy Hanks.  
1769, March 19 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 10, p. 228

Hanks, Richard of the Parish of Nottoway, County of Amelia, to William Dunnivant of Dinwiddie County. . . . consideration 60 pounds. . . . lower 243 acres in Nottoway Parish and Amelia County. . . . Begin John Hightower's line. . . . to Hightower's corner. . . . Hightower's line to beginning. . . . Witnesses: Charles Williams, George Hightower, Edward (x) Algood. Signed: Richard Hanks.  
1770, September 4 \_\_\_\_\_ No. 11, p. 207

Hanks, James of Amelia County to Samuel Thompson of Amelia County. . . . consideration 100 pounds. . . . 100 acres on branches of Barebone Creek in Amelia County. . . . along Clay's line to Stewart's line. . . . Worsham's line. . . . Mitchell's line. . . . Witnesses: Samuel Burks, William Gooch, Chas. (x) Harrison. Signed: James Hanks.

1774, October 26 No. 13, p. 80

Hanks, Angelico, widow of Joshua, and George, John, Joshua, Mary, Rebeckah, Lucy, Robert Tucker, and Mary, heirs representing Lucy Hanks, deceased, and heirs representing George Hanks, deceased. . . . sale of goods.

1785, December 22 No. 17, p. 302

Hanks, Richard from Daniel Pitchford. . . . Land in Amelia . . . lines of Thos. Jones, Peter Jones, Richard Hanks. . . . Witness: John Hanks.

1788, July 24 No. 18, p. 258

#### *Marriage Bonds*

Hanks, Mary married Robert Tucker, bondsman Daniel Tucker.

1778, December 7

Hanks, Joshua married Phoebe Wilson, bondsman John Wilson.

1781, August 10

Hanks, Judith married Henry Nadin.

1783, March 17

Hanks, Rebecca married Daniel Ford, bondsman John Hanks.

1786, September 1

Hanks, Mary married Charles Clay, bondsman Richard Hanks.

1786, October 18

#### *Will Books*

Joshua Hanks, Sr.

Joshua Hanks of Rawley Parish in the County of Amelia, planter

Item (1). To son Richard Hanks all the land on north side of Reedy

branch that he lives on also 5 shillings sterling.

Item (2). To my son John Hanks the land on the south side of the said branch in the fork.

Item (3). To son Joshua Hanks the remainder of the said tract of land which contains the plantation whereon I now live.

Item (4). To son Geo. Hanks 150 A. land whereon he has built his house on Meadow Branch.

Item (5). To sons Joshua and John Hanks the remainder part of the tract of land that Geo. Hanks has built on to be equally divided between them two.

Item (6). To my daughter Frances Sammons one negro girl named Rachel and also five shillings sterling.

Item (7). To Mary Hanks my daughter one feather bed and furniture.

Item (8). To my daughter Rebeckah Hanks one bed and furniture.

Item (9). To my daughter Lewsee (Lucy) Hanks one feather bed and furniture.

Item (10). To my wife, Angelico Hanks, all my estate Real & Personal of negroes, stock of horses, pigs, cattle, sheep, and all my household furniture during her life and all my working utensils and after her decease then equally to be divided between my six children that I shall name here under: George, John, Joshua, Mary, Rebeckah, Lewsee. . . . Wife Angelico & son, Geo., executors. . . . Witnesses: John Clay, John Clay, Jr., William Adams. Signed: Joshua (x) Hanks. Probated in Amelia C. H. County Court, September 28, 1775.

Estate appraised by Edward Mumford, Henry Nadin, Joshua Spain. 13 slaves, some young—names, Sambo, Tom, Pompey, Cato, Sawney,

Sue, Bess, James, Cook, Savey, Cipio, Doll. 20 head of cattle, one cart & wheels, 3 cotton wheels, 49 hoggs, 8 sheep, 5 horses, 2 old chests, 1 looking glass, 6 Bush chairs, 4 old dishes & deep plates, 15 flat dishes, pewter spoons a lot, (illegible) & 3 pks salt, saddle & harness, tools for farm, tools for carding etc., a parcel of old books, a pair of spectacles, carpenter's tools, 6 bedsteads & furniture  
a lot of other things Amt. not stated.

*Thomas Hanks' Will*

In the Name of God Amen I Thomas Hanks of the County of Amelia being weak in body but of a sound and perfect understanding and memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament in form and manner following: First I bequeath my soul to God and my body to the Earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as for my worldly goods I order that all my just debts be first paid.

Item. I give to my Nephew & Godson, Thomas Draper, a tract of land in Chesterfield County containing fifty acres more or less which I bought at Grizell, to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give to my nephew Thomas Draper (after my decease) my negro Ned to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give to my nephew Thomas Draper all the Remainder of my Estate both Real & personal at my decease to him and his heirs forever.

Lastly I nominate, constitute and appoint my nephew & godson Thomas Draper whole & sole Executor both real and personal of this my last will and testament. In witness I do hereby set my hand & seal this 26th day of February 1777.

Signed, sealed & acknowledged in presence of Robert (x) Tucker, Jeremiah Bailey, David Jones.

Thomas Hanks.

No. 2, p. 226.

*Order Books*

Hanks, Abraham and Lucy his wife. . . . summoned to appear at this court to prove the will of Christopher Hinton. . . . Thomas Hinton administrator.

1747, March 18

Hanks, John vs. Gower Dennis . . . . assault and battery.

1758, July 27

Hanks, Joshua. . . . Tom a negro belonging to Joshua Hanks adjudged by the court to be 15 years old no more.

1763

Hanks, Richard. . . . his tithables ordered to work on a road.

1765, February 28

Hanks, John vs. Hightower's executor. . . . verdict for plaintiff.

1765, October 28

Hanks, Joshua. . . . Pompey a negro boy belonging to him adjudged to be 7 years old.

(1767-1768)

Hanks, James. . . . Ordered to pay to William Hanks 79 pounds of tobacco for one day's attendance at court and travelling 18 miles as witness in his suit vs. Griggs.

1768, July 28

Hanks, Joshua. . . . Sawney, a negro belonging to him is adjudged to be 12 years old.

1768, September 22

Hanks, James. . . . assigns to John Winn vs. John Mallery. . . . debt. . . .

verdict for plaintiff.

1769, May 26

Hanks, Richard. . . . age of negro  
belonging to him adjudged by court.

1769, June 22

Hanks, Elizah vs. Charles Sullard.  
. . . . Suit for debt. . . . verdict for  
plaintiff.

1769, September

Hanks, James vs. John Hamlin.  
1770

Hanks, Richard and wife Mary.  
1770, October

Hanks, Thomas. . . . will proved and  
sworn to by Thomas Draper, the  
executor herein named.

1777, May 22

#### NOTTOWAY COUNTY

Formed out of Amelia County in  
1789

##### *Deed Books*

Hanks, Richard from David Tucker.  
. . . . 132 acres of land on Nammosen  
(Namozine) Creek. . . . Witnesses:  
Abner Osborn, Robert Tucker, Green  
Ellington. Signed: David Tucker.  
1791, February 18 No. 1, p. 142

Hanks, John from Joshua Spain. . . .  
66 acres in Nottoway County. . . .  
Begin Spain's corner on Richard  
Hanks' line. . . . Daniel Pitchford's  
line. . . . line on road that leads from  
Peter Jones' to Butler's woods spring.  
. . . . Pitchford's line. . . . John Hanks'  
line to beginning. . . . Witnesses:  
Richard Hanks, Joshua Hanks, Sr.,  
William Spain. Signed: Joshua  
Spain.

1791, March 19 No. 1, p. 145

Hanks, Richard from David Tucker.  
. . . . 145 acres on Nammosen (Namozine)  
Creek. . . . Witnesses: Robert

Tucker, John Tucker, George Foster.  
Signed: David Tucker, Fanny (x)  
Tucker.

1791, December 11 No. 1, p. 352

Note—There are a great many Hanks deeds recorded in Nottoway County during the early part of the nineteenth century, but they are too late to be of much value to this inquiry about Lincoln's maternal ancestry.

##### *Will Books*

Bequests of Richard Hanks, Sr. of  
Nottoway: Joshua, land where he  
now lives, 130 acres, negro girl Tilly.  
. . . . Richard, land where he lives, 140  
acres. . . . Anna Hall, Polly Clay,  
Frances Hall, and Patsy Worsham  
the following negroes: Simon, Lew,  
Emanuel, Daniel, Barnet, to be  
equally divided between them. . . .  
Ruben, the tract of land purchased  
from my brother John, 112 acres,  
also 2 negroes. . . . Philip, land where  
I now live, 137 acres, negro boy. . . .  
Angelo. . . . Rhoda. . . . Delphia  
Hill. . . . Rebecca. . . . Executors:  
Samuel Morgan, Samuel Perry, son  
Richard, and brother Joshua. Wit-  
nesses: Samuel Morgan, John Spain,  
and Joshua Spain. Signed: Richard  
Hanks.

1809, May 6 Signed

1809, July 6 Probated No. 2, p. 505

Rebeckah Hanks Will. . . . Brother  
Ruben. . . . Sister Anna. . . . Niece  
Lucy, daughter of brother Joshua.  
. . . . Brother Joshua. . . . Richard. . . .  
Witnesses: Arden Hanks, Saml Mor-  
gan, George Avery. Signed: Rebec-  
kah (x) Hanks.

1809, October 31 Signed

1809, December 13 Probated

##### *Marriage Records*

Note—There are no marriage records available in Nottoway County from the time of the origin of the county in 1789 to 1865. One marriage recorded on December 28, 1867, states that Abraham Hanks married Margaret Jackson. The marriage papers give Charlotte County, Virginia, as the birthplace of the groom and his father, Abraham Hanks.